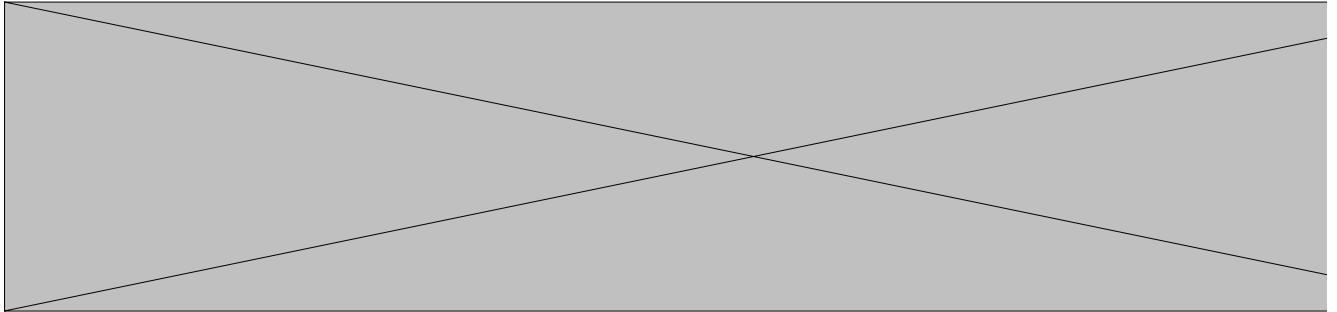


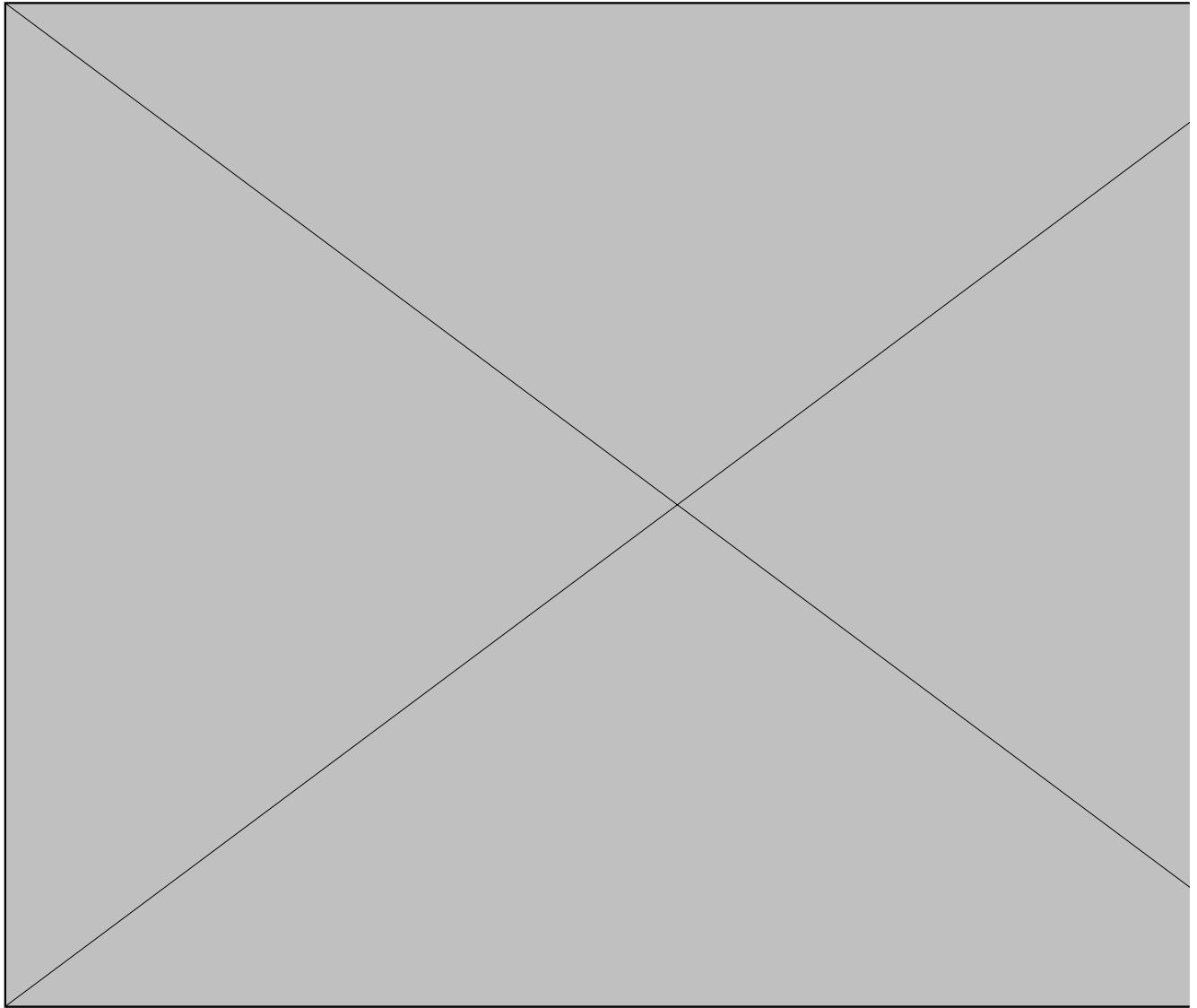
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**From:** SVP  
**Sent:** 2017-07-13T13:00:13-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
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**Received:** 2017-07-13T13:30:16-04:00



Part of SVP's core mission is to work for the protection of vertebrate fossils and the sites where they are found. This year the Trump Administration called for a review of all US national monuments established since 1996 to determine whether they should be downsized or abolished altogether. All twenty-one of the terrestrial monuments affected by this executive order are fossiliferous, some of them containing what are arguably among of the most important vertebrate paleontological field areas in North America.

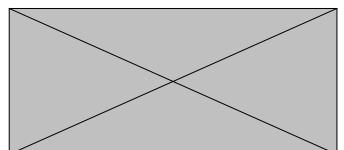
SVP responded to the Department of Interior's consultation on the monuments with the attached comments. Thanks to help from members and the hard work of the Government Affairs Committee, we assembled 38 pages of data about the paleontological resources at these monuments. Collectively the fossil bearing units on these lands cover the entire duration of vertebrate history. Some, like Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, are sites of vigorous ongoing research; others, like Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada, have barely been surveyed for vertebrate fossils despite the promise of preliminary reports.

All of 21 monuments offer rich potential for future research. The US Antiquities Act of 1906 specifically includes scientific significance as one of the justifications for conferring national monument status. Our comments provide an overview of the VP at each location along with a representative bibliography. Interested researchers are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by these properties. Permits for research can be obtained from the Department of Interior authorized by the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (presuming that the paleontological work is compatible with other conservation priorities at the property).

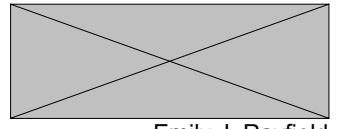


SVP's comments and a high resolution version of this graphic are also available at <http://vertpaleo.org/GlobalPDFS/SVP-Response-to-National-Monument-Review-July-2017.aspx>.

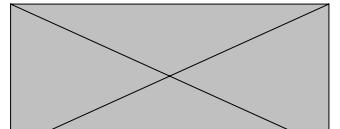
Sincerely yours,



P. David Polly  
President, SVP



Emily J. Rayfield  
Vice President, SVP



John A. Long  
Past President, SVP

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SVP Business Office, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814 USA

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